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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ITALY: DC ECONOMIC PLAN LOOKS GOOD

EMBASSY ROME GIVES FAIRLY HIGH MARKS TO ITALY'S NEW ECO-NOMIC PROGRAM, COMMENTING THAT PSI INFLUENCE SHOWS CLEARLY IN THE INCOMES POLICY OF FREEZING PAY RAISES FOR HIGH-SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND FORCING THOSE EMPLOYEES TO INVEST IN GOVERNMENT NOTES. THE THREE-PRONGED ATTACK ON THE COUN-TRY'S ECONOMIC WOES INCLUDES:

- --FORCING UP INTEREST RATES MODERATELY TO SLOW THE FLIGHT OF CAPITAL WITHOUT BLIGHTING INCIPIENT ECONOMIC RECOVERY;
- --IMPOSING A 75 PERCENT EXCESS PROFITS TAX AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO A PRICE FREEZE, WHICH THE ITALIANS SECRET

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CONSIDER UNWORKABLE; AND

--ENDING GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO SUPPORT THE LIRA, WHICH WILL HELP THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BUT HURT THE CONSUMER, WHO EATS IMPORTED FOOD AND SNARLS TRAFFIC WITH IMPORTED GASOLINE.

THE EMBASSY CAUTIONS, HOWEVER, THAT THE EVENTUAL FATE OF THE DC ECONOMIC PROGRAM REMAINS UNCLEAR AT THIS STAGE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ROME 2256, 2/10.)

2. YEMEN: ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN SOVIET AID

YAR CHIEF OF STAFF GHASHMI TOLD CHARGE RANSOM THAT, ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET SHIPMENT OF MIG-21'S AND T-54 TANKS HAD ARRIVED, THE SOVIETS REACTING TO THE VISIT OF A SAUDI MILITARY MISSION THE PREVIOUS WEEK, REFUSED TO OFFLOAD IT. NOTING GHASHMI'S ELATION WITH US SAUDI PLANS TO SUPPLY MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING, THE EMBASSY:

--SURMISES THAT THE YAR AGREED TO SOVIET DELIVERIES AT THE DEPTH OF THEIR CRISIS WITH THE SAUDIS, BUT WHEN FENCES WERE MENDED EITHER HAMDI OR THE SOVIETS DECIDED TO STOP THE SHIPMENTS; AND

--BELIEVES THAT, THOUGH FUTURE DELIVERIES OF SOVIET SUPPLIES REMAIN A POSSIBILITY, THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN PARTLY CHECKED.

EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION: WE SHOULD RAISE THE ISSUE OF ASSISTANCE WITH THE SAUDIS IN CONNECTION WITH SULTAN'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO YEMEN. WITH SOVIET DELIVERIES UNDERWAY, WE NEED TO SHOW SOME MOVEMENT. (SECRET) SANA 477, 2/11.)

3. ANGOLA: GABON RECOGNIZES MPLA

EMBASSY PARIS REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT BONGO ANNOUNCED RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA FEBRUARY 11, AND ACCORDING TO A QUAI OFFICIAL, THE IVORY COAST IS ON THE VERGE OF DOING THE SAME. THE OFFICIAL PREDICTED THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER FRANSECRET

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COPHONE COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW SUIT, BUT THE ATTITUDES OF ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE REMAIN CRUCIAL. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 4213, 2/11.)

4. PERPETUATING THE FIGHT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

EMBASSY MAPUTO (FORMERLY LOURENCO MARQUES) REPORTS THAT PRESIDENTS KAUNDA, MACHEL, NYERERE, AND KHAMA (BOTSWANA)

ON FEBRUARY 7 FINISHED TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS WHICH WERE PROBABLY CONVENED TO DISCUSS RESUMPTION OF FULL-SCALE GUERRILLA WARFARE IN RHODESIA. MOZAMBIQUE LEADERS ARE KNOWN TO FAVOR MILITARY ACTION TO END MINORITY RULE AND HAVE BEEN TRAINING AND ASSISTING ZIMBABWE FORCES. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MAPUTO 132, 2/11.) INGERSOLL

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